NOVEMBER 2025

Rock Talk

The Official Newsletter of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Citrine

Citrine is a yellow to brownish-yellow variety of quartz, which is a mineral composed of silicon and oxygen atoms. It is one of the most popular and affordable gemstones, often used in jewelry due to its beauty and affordability. Citrine is also known for its unique metaphysical properties, believed to promote creativity, wealth, and abundance.

Natural citrine is relatively rare and is typically found in Brazil, Madagascar, and Zambia. However, most of the citrine in the market is actually heat-treated amethyst or smoky quartz, which changes the color to a yellow or brownish-yellow hue.

Citrine has a long history of use in jewelry and as a decorative gemstone. It is also associated with various cultural and spiritual beliefs, including those of ancient Greeks and Romans, who believed that citrine was a symbol of prosperity and happiness.

The most significant sources of citrine are Brazil, Madagascar, and Zambia. In Brazil, citrine is commonly found in hydrothermal veins in granite and pegmatite. In Madagascar, citrine is found in volcanic rocks and alluvial deposits. In Zambia, citrine is found in hydrothermal veins and alluvial deposits.

Citrine is a variety of quartz, which is a mineral composed of silicon and oxygen atoms arranged in a 3-dimensional structure. Citrine forms when amethyst or smoky quartz, two other varieties of quartz, are heated to high temperatures, usually around 470 degrees Celsius. The heating process changes the oxidation state of iron impurities within the crystal lattice, resulting in the yellow to brownish-yellow color of citrine.

This Month's Roundup of Stories

- Citrine
- Secretary's Report
- Calligraphy Stone
- November 2025 Announcements
- Septarian
- Rock Rummage Sale!
- Marston Marble
- YouTube Channel & Club T-shirts
- Bench Tips

November's Birthstone - Citrine

The mineralogical composition of citrine is identical to that of other varieties of quartz, with the chemical formula SiO_2.

Citrine typically contains trace amounts of iron, which is responsible for the yellow to brownish-yellow coloration. The color of citrine can range from pale yellow to dark brownish-orange.

Read the entire article at *GeologyScience.com*

Secretary's Report

Minutes and More from Club Secretary - Melodye Steverson

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting - Minutes
Date 10-8-2025

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Steverson at 7pm.
We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.
There was 1 new member to recognize: Valerie Francis
There were no guests in attendance.
Janet Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of our September meeting as printed in the newsletter. Roger Wheeler seconded. Passed by all members.
Treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's report. Anthony Mafatone made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by James Roush. Approved by all.
President Steverson began with announcements:
The clubhouse kitchen will be refurbished during the last 2 weeks of October, so the clubhouse will be closed during the construction.
At our last Board of Directors meeting, Hunter Mellring came up with a great idea.
Hunter took the floor to explain:
We are going to feature the club members who are going to be vendors at our Gem Show. I will need information and pictures regarding the items you will be selling to showcase your products on the Facebook page. Send me your information and I will feature you on the Club's Facebook page.

President Steverson announced that he had created a Gem Show promo with an AI spokesperson named "Ruby".
Gem Show co-chair Janice Wojcik stated that the vendor tables are almost completely sold out and vendors are still trying to get in. She also reiterated that each member needs to volunteer to help with the show. We all need to work together to make this our best show yet!
Janice also mentioned that we have a lot of Gem Show flyers available for members to give out.
Hunter Mellring stated that the boosts on the Club's Facebook page have been working and are getting a lot of attention for the Gem Show.

President Steverson reminded members that we will be having an Election for Officers and Board members in December and encourages all members to consider running for an elected position to help direct the future of the Club.

Hunter Mellring made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ralph Barber seconded, passed by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.

Calligraphy Stone

Calligraphy Stone, also known as Mariam Stone or Arabic Stone, is a unique type of fossiliferous limestone that features intricate patterns resembling Arabic calligraphy or Chinese brush strokes. It is primarily sourced from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. The stone's distinct appearance is attributed to the presence of fossilized sea creatures, primarily Orthoceras, which are ancient cephalopods related to the modern-day squid or nautilus.

The intricate patterns found in Calligraphy Stone are created by the fossilized remains of these marine organisms, which form dark brown to black lines and swirls against a cream or beige background. The contrast between the dark fossilized remains and the lighter matrix creates stunning visual effects reminiscent of elegant calligraphy strokes, hence the name "Calligraphy Stone."

Due to its unique appearance and aesthetic appeal, Calligraphy Stone is highly prized for use in lapidary and decorative applications. It is often cut and polished into various shapes, including cabochons, beads, and decorative objects. Jewelry designers, collectors, and enthusiasts value Calligraphy Stone for its beauty and its connection to ancient marine life.

Beyond its ornamental uses, Calligraphy Stone is also believed to possess metaphysical properties. Some people associate it with grounding energy, promoting stability, and enhancing communication skills. However, it's essential to note that these claims are not scientifically proven and are based on personal beliefs and anecdotal evidence.

Calligraphy Stone, also known as Mariam Stone or Arabic Stone, is primarily sourced from the Atlas Mountains region in Morocco. The Atlas Mountains span across Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, but the most significant deposits of Calligraphy Stone are found in the Moroccan portion of the range.
Within the Atlas Mountains, Calligraphy Stone is typically extracted from sedimentary rock formations that date back millions of years to the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras. These formations contain limestone deposits where the fossilized remains of ancient marine organisms, particularly Orthoceras cephalopods, are preserved.

The specific locations within the Atlas Mountains where Calligraphy Stone is mined may vary, but it is often found in areas with accessible limestone deposits. Mining operations may involve quarrying the stone from open-pit mines or extracting it from underground deposits using various methods.

In summary, Calligraphy Stone is a captivating natural stone renowned for its resemblance to calligraphy and its connection to ancient marine life. Whether admired for its aesthetic appeal, metaphysical properties, or geological significance, Calligraphy Stone continues to fascinate and inspire people around the world.

Read the article at
GeologyScience.com

November 2025 Announcements

We are less than a month away from our annual Gem Show.
Please tell everyone you know about the show. Post to your social media about it, send friends and family links to our website about it. Get the word out!
Let's makes this our best Gem Show ever!

Hunter Mellring will start featuring club members who will be vendors at the Gem Show in the club's Facebook posts.
This gets you more visibility, and gets the club increased visibility.
So, for the November meeting, bring a few of the items you will be selling, or be sure to get pictures to Hunter.

Clamoring for Classes!

Club members want more classes, and the Board wants to provide them.

- **We have a Cabochon cutting class ready to go, but only one member signed up.**
- **We have a Resin class in the works, but so far, no interest.**
- **We have the potential for more wire wrapping classes.**
- **And the Silversmithing class is being re-worked and will be going soon.**

All of the classes being offered need to have a minimum of 4 student club members and will need to be paid for in advance.
If you want to take a Cabochon class, text your name, phone number, and day/times you are available to me. 407.760.4472
I will coordinate the class with the students.
--- Melodye

Jean Casanova has friend whose mother passed away, and is looking to sell the collection of rocks, crystals and more that her mother acquired over the years. Please call Jean to schedule a time to visit her and look through the collection. 352.442.2667
Below are some images of some of the items she has.

Michele Evans has some additional items she is looking to sell.
Below are some of her items. Michele says prices are between $5 to $25.
The amber from Poland will be slightly higher.
See Michele at our next meeting.

Septarian

Septarian, also known as Septarian Nodule or Dragon Stone, is a distinctive type of sedimentary rock that is characterized by its unique, striking appearance. It is composed primarily of a combination of minerals, including calcite, aragonite, and limestone, with additional components such as clay minerals, gypsum, and barite. What sets septarian apart from other rocks is its characteristic cracking patterns, which form a network of angular patterns on the surface.

The term "Septarian" is derived from the Latin word "septum," meaning partition or boundary, and refers to the distinctive cracks or separations that divide the rock into distinct sections or segments. These cracks are typically filled with minerals, creating a fascinating mosaic-like effect.

The formation of septarian nodules is believed to occur through a combination of sedimentation, mineralization, and contraction during the geological processes. The process begins with the accumulation of sediment around a nucleus, often a fossilized shell or other organic material. Over time, minerals in the groundwater infiltrate the sediment, filling the gaps and forming the characteristic cracks. The minerals that fill these cracks can vary, leading to a diverse range of colors and textures within the septarian nodules.

Septarian nodules are commonly found in sedimentary rocks, such as limestone, shale, or mudstone, and are often discovered in areas that were once ancient seabeds. These unique formations have gained popularity not only for their geological significance but also for their aesthetic appeal. When polished and cut, septarian nodules reveal intricate patterns and vibrant colors, making them popular choices for lapidary work and ornamental pieces.

In addition to its visual appeal, septarian is sometimes associated with metaphysical properties in various esoteric belief systems. It is believed by some to possess grounding and protective qualities, fostering a sense of balance and harmony.

Overall, septarian stands out in the world of rocks and minerals due to its captivating appearance, formed through the intricate interplay of geological processes over millions of years.

Read the article at GeologyScience.com

Rock Rummage Sale!

November 12th
Withlacoochee Rockhounds Meeting

Not your average Rummage Sale!
At our November 12th Meeting, it's all rocks, slabs, fossils, cabochons and jewelry for sale by all our Rockhound members.
Got awful agate, crummy chrysoprase, lousy labradorite or funky flourite collecting dust in the garage or in that big pile in the backyard?
Bring it to the meeting to sell. One man's trash is another's treasure.
Or, better yet, sell your stunning slabs, pretty pendants or fabulous fossils.
Every member can sell (at any price). Every member can buy (at any price).
Please, no old TV's. No kitchen kitsch. No old sneakers.
Just Rockhound treasure!

Clubhouse Address:
3357 Susan Dr
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Marston Marble

Marston Marble is a unique and highly ornamental type of fossiliferous limestone, valued for its artistic and aesthetic qualities. It is characterized by very dense white and cream-colored ammonite Promicroceras planicosta into a vibrant black background. The said fossils are well preserved, hence the attraction to use them for ornamental specimens, such as tabletops and jewelry, and other creations of the arts.

The Marston Marble was formed in the Jurassic, Lower Jurassic to be precise, approximately 200–175 million years ago. During that time, what we now call Somerset was underwater in a shallow sea, where sediments were laid down, containing ammonites. Over millions of years, these sediments have compressed and solidified into limestone, with the ammonites beautifully preserved within the rock matrix.

The Marston Marble is extracted nowhere else but from around Marston Magna, Somerset, England. Indeed, this small area of Somerset is the principal, nearly sole source of this unique limestone. The geological strata in this region also form part of the larger geological setting that characterizes the Jurassic Coast— a world heritage site noted for its extensive fossil records and geological history. Marston Marble has been extracted and worked since ancient times; the unique aesthetic qualities of the material have made it a locus of attraction for local artisans and international collectors.

The Marston Marble is perhaps best known for its abundant and well-preserved ammonites, all of the species Promicroceras planicosta. They are small, averaging a few centimeters in diameter up to about 10cm, but some grow larger. They have strongly ribbed, tightly coiled shells.

In addition to ammonites, Marston Marble is also expected to contain other marine fossils such as belemnites, squidgy creatures with hard bullet-shaped internal skeletons, and sometimes even bivalves and gastropods. This diversity infers embedded in the limestone matrix a flash view of marine biodiversity during the Jurassic.

Marston Marble is very important from a paleontological point of view, both in terms of the amount and quality of fossils. The material provides exceptional data for studies into the Jurassic marine environment, offering insight into ammonoid biology and evolution. Preservation of such an array of marine life also allows paleontologists to probe deeper into ecological dynamics of past seas, including predator-prey relations and overall biodiversity at the time. Insights about Past Environments and Ecosystems “Marston Marble was an important window on the marine environments of the Early Jurassic Periods. The high diversity of marine organisms gives a strong indication of a vibrant and diversified ecosystem, which may have been facilitated and supported by warm shallow waters, offering an optimal habitat for ammonites as well as other marine invertebrates. Such settings have implied a highly active marine environment with a complex food web, ranging from different levels of predators to scavengers and filter feeders.”.

Read the entire article at *GeologyScience.com*

Our YouTube Channel and Club T-shirts

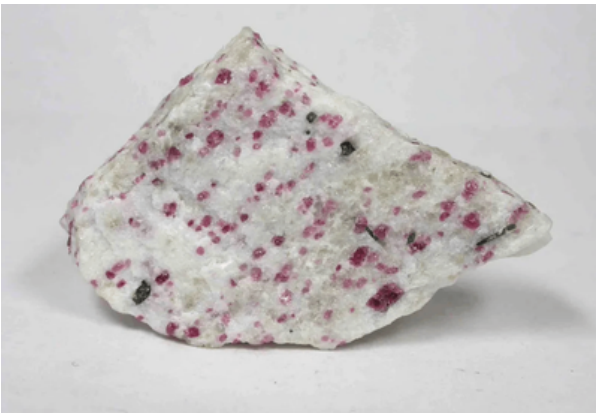
It has come to my attention that some of you do not know that our club has its own YouTube Channel.
On our channel, I have uploaded videos of past, and recent club presentations.
For those of you who could not make it the meeting when a particular presentation was done, or if you would like to see it again, this is where you can find those videos.
The web address for our Youtube channel is:
https://www.youtube.com/@withlacoocheerockhounds

Want to be the proud owner of some Withlacoochee Rockhounds merchandise? The club has short and long-sleeve shirts for sale. They are available in a wide range of colors and sizes. We also have a Rockhounds tote bag for carrying around those rock specimens you find.
Visit this page on our club's website to see the array of merchandise, and links to our them.
https://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/club-t-shirts-.html

Kakortokite

Kakortokite is a rare igneous rock primarily composed of perthitic microcline feldspar with minor amounts of other minerals such as nepheline, sodalite, and/or eudialyte. It typically forms in alkaline intrusions, often associated with nepheline syenites or other alkali-rich rocks.

Kakortokite is known for its striking colors and patterns, often displaying vibrant hues of red, pink, and green due to the presence of these various minerals. It's valued as a decorative stone and can be polished for use in jewelry, ornamental objects, or as a decorative building material. The name "kakortokite" is derived from Kakortok Mountain in Greenland, where the rock was first discovered.



Field Trips

"Note: The Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club does not sponsor field trips other than trips that are sanctioned by the SFMS (The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies).

Our club insurance is through SFMS and does not cover excursions not listed on their website as safe."
The SFMS insurance covers the property owner where members might go, but not the club members.

Clubhouse Address:
3357 Susan Dr
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Monthly Meeting Courtesy

Our monthly meetings are a time for members to get together to share their love of rocks, minerals and fossils. It is a chance to learn from each other, teach each other and bond with people that have common interests. It's also a time for the club to conduct a business meeting, during which club Officers and Directors inform club members of changes that have happened or are proposed to happen in the future to club procedure or rules.
It is a time for announcements of coming classes, programs, scholarships, and special events.
It may be a time for discussion on a topic if it is of concern to a majority of members present.
Members may also share experiences and news of interest to other members.
Our monthly meetings should always be a time of sharing, education and entertainment.

We should all show respect and consideration for each other at our meetings, especially for the Facilitator of the meeting, whether it be our President or one of our other Officers. This respect has been lacking in our meetings for several months now. A few attendees have been speaking out without being recognized, shouting, and making inappropriate comments. This not only disrupts our meetings but makes members, new and old, feel uneasy and uncomfortable. It makes our club seem very unprofessional and is disrespectful to the Officers, Directors, and your fellow members.

Going forward, our Board has decided to strive for a more business-like atmosphere while our business meetings are in order. If you are an attending member and have a question or comment, please raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the Facilitator of the meeting. After you are acknowledged and speak, if you later have something else to add, please raise your hand and again be recognized to speak. Please be respectful and polite when you are addressing the Officers and Directors, who volunteer their time, work tirelessly, and make every effort to keep this club alive and prosperous.

We feel this will make for a smoother meeting with all members being heard. No members will be shouted over and no members will feel over run with chaotic outbursts. We will all feel a part of the meeting and will learn more about what our club is doing for and with us.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Our monthly club meeting is held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in Rock Talk is $10.00 per month. Contact Michael Steverson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and the club website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the *Rock Talk* and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the *Rock Talk* and our website have more exposure than only club members

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
or send to: Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earrth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, and workshops. PLUS, our annual gem, mineral and jewelry show.
Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are $35.00 annually for adults, and $5.00 for children under 18 years of age.

Club Meeting Location and Time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3375 Susan Dr in Spring Hill. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM

2025 Club Officers and Appointees

President	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com .com
Vice President	Anthony Maffatone	352.397.7694	anthonymaffatone@gmail.com
Secretary	Melodye Steverson	352.683.9496	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editor	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Club Webmaster	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Mailing Reporter	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Audio/Visual Coordinator	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com

Michael Steverson (President) Anthony Maffatone (Vice President) Melodye Steverson (Secretary) Janet Wheeler (Treasurer)
Hunter Mellring Leslie Newberry Roger Wheeler James Roush Ralph Barber (Past President)

Bench Tips from Brad Smith

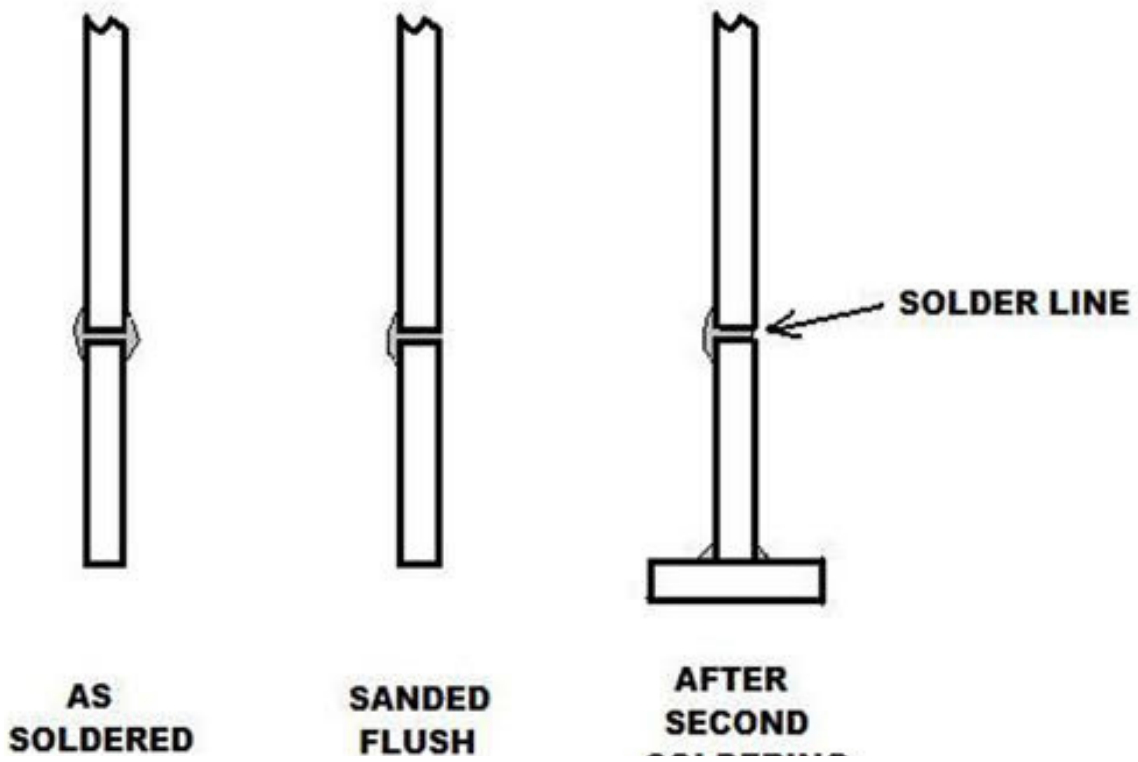
Brad Smith's *Bench Tips* are a monthly feature of Rock Talk

AVOIDING SOLDER LINES

After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear after you've soldered the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature that solder flows, the liquid solder seeps a little more into the surrounding metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all the soldering.

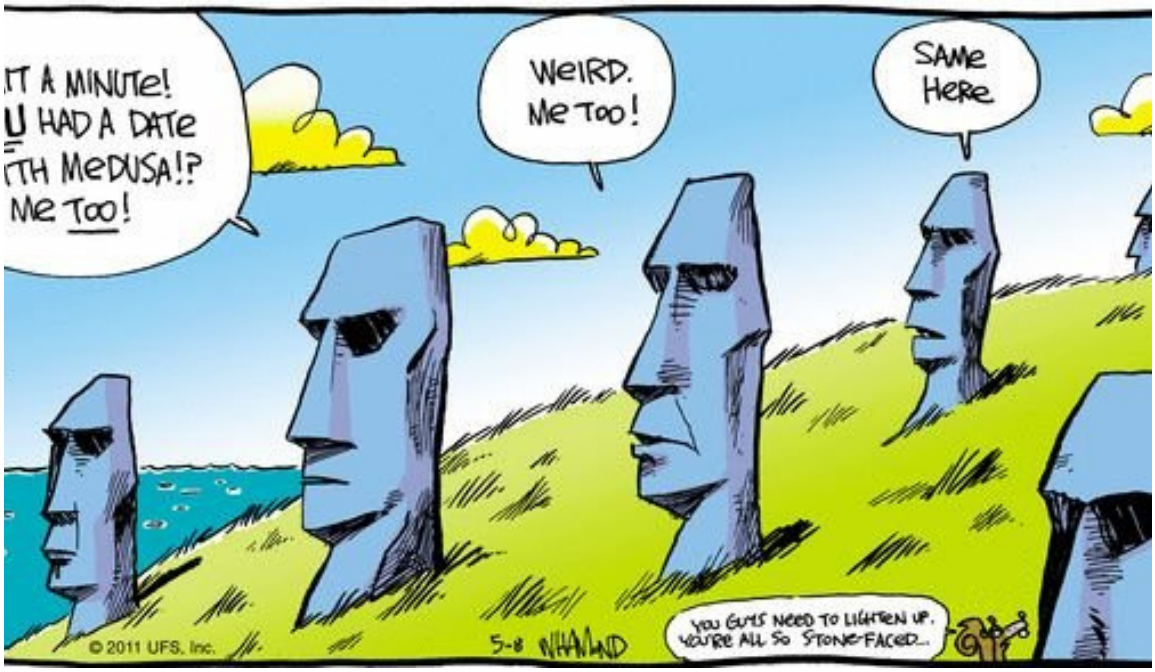
Of course, this isn't always possible like when a soldering operation prevents you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. Coating the finished solder joint with ochre seems to help a bit but is not a complete solution.



Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books

Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

Rock Talk Funny Papers



From The Editor

Hello to all Withlacoochee Rockhounds

It is I, your friendly neighborhood editor again.

For our October meeting.....you liked him before, so we brought him back. Prospector, rock hound extraordinaire, and a great video presence to boot, was back with another of his rockhounding videos. This time he was working a claim of Ocean Picture Stone, and a specimen worth $6500! This one takes us from finding the rock, mining it, to taking it back to his shop and sawing it. He was a hit!

For our November meeting, it's the return of a club favorite – Rock Rummage Sale. Bring those items you want to sell, or items you want to get rid of. For those looking to buy, you should have your choice of interesting rock-related items.

If you would like to place a business card ad in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me, and we'll get you added to the next available issue.

Additionally, if any of you have not received your newsletter or are not receiving my e-mail blasts (meetings, rock sales, etc.), *please* check your spam folder. If you are still not receiving them, please contact me, and let's make sure I have your correct e-mail address, and that you are indeed subscribed.

Our Board would like our members to come up with suggestions for programs to be presented at our monthly meetings. What would you like to see? What would you like to learn? What would you like to know? Is there something you'd like to teach or present? You can help our club expand its educational repertoire. We'd love to hear from you all.

Contact any Board member or bring your written suggestions to a meeting.

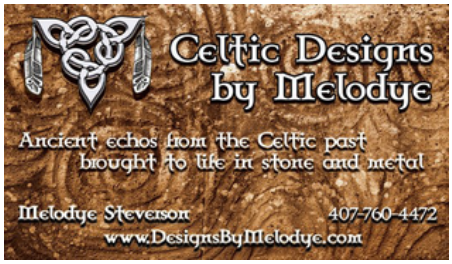
Rock On!!!

Club Phone Number - 352.587.2714

Warning to Withlacoochee Rockhound Members

During the last several months, illicit requests have been sent to members of various clubs in the US, including the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, asking members to purchase gift cards that would be used as donations to various organizations.
These are SCAMS.
Be advised that our club has never and will never ask members to buy gift cards or provide any form of monitary funds to anyone or any organization by phone call, email, or any other method of communication.

Rockhounds Advertisers



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If your ad has a web address, or Etsy shop address, I have linked to it.

Advertisers Are Needed
Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website.
The monthly income from these ads is beneficial to the club.
Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members.
Contact club treasurer Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or send to:
Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Membership Form - 2025

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
Hernando County FL

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Full Name _____

Partner's Full Name _____
* If both applying for membership

Child's Full Name _____
* If under 18, and applying with parent

Street Address _____

City _____

State / ZIP _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Annual Membership Dues:

*Choose your type of membership

- ☐ Individual Membership $35.00/ea
- ☐ Individual Membership $35.00/ea
- ☐ Under 18 Membership $5.00/ea
- ☐ Under 18 Membership $5.00/ea

☐ Returning Member?

☐ New Member?

If you are applying, for example, as husband, wife and child (under 18), then fill in full name, partner's name and child's name above. Then, choose two individual memberships to the left, along with an under 18 membership.

Give this completed form, along with your check (made payable to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds") or credit card for dues to Club Secretary Janet Wheeler at a club meeting. Or, you may mail the form to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634